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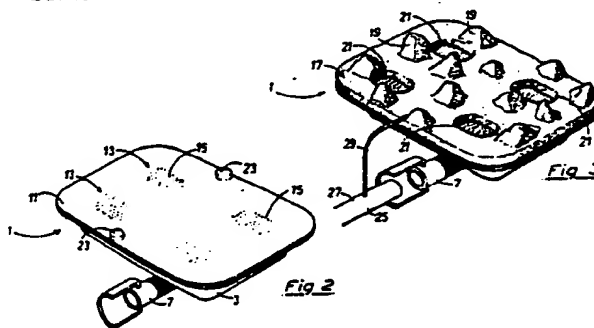
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(54) Improvements relating to gas burners for gas fires.

(57) The present specification discloses a gas burner for a solid fuel effect gas fire. Certain such burners comprise a metal trough (3) with a gas/air mix supply pipe (7) extending through a wall of the trough (3), the open top of the trough (3) being closed by a ceramic plaque (17) which is formed with a number of simulated solid fuel elements (19) moulded in its upper surface and with a multiplicity of gas/air mix bores (15) extending therethrough. The ceramic plaque (17) sealed to the rim of the trough (3) by a suitable mastic or filler. However, with heat and age this sealant does deteriorate allowing leakage from the burner chamber via an undesired route.

The present invention provides a burner (1) comprising an integrally formed metal casing (3,11) defining a gas/air mix chamber. A gas/air mix supply pipe (7) connects with the chamber and a number of

burner bores (15) are provided in a wall (11) of the casing (3,11). Simulated solid fuel elements (19) can then be located above or on the said wall (11) of the casing (3,11) so as to not close said burner bores (15), age etc. not affecting the performance of the burner.



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"IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO GAS BURNERS FOR GAS FIRES"

The present invention relates to a gas burner for use in a gas fire.

In particular the present invention relates to a gas burner for use in a solid fuel effect gas fire. Certain known gas burners for use in a solid fuel effect gas fire comprises a metal trough or tray which has a gas/primary air mix supply pipe extending through a side wall of the trough and extending to the central region of the trough or tray. The open top of the trough of the tray is closed by a ceramic plaque which is formed with a number of simulated solid fuel elements moulded in its upper surface and with a multiplicity of gas/primary air mix bores extending therethrough. The ceramic plaque is sealed to the edge of the trough or tray by a suitable mastic or filler so that gas/primary air mix passes solely through said bores, the mix burning with complete combustion slightly above the upper surface of the ceramic plaque. Whilst this burner construction is perfectly satisfactory when new and accurately manufactured, the mastic or filler does tend to age, become brittle and crack, allowing gas/primary air mix to escape via an undesired route. Thus repairs have to be effected after a period of use.

The aim of the present invention is to provide a gas burner for a solid fuel effect gas fire which avoids the above problem and provides for an indefinite period of service.

According to the present invention there is provided a gas burner for a solid fuel effect gas fire, the burner comprising an integrally formed metal casing defining a gas/air mix chamber, a gas/air mix supply pipe connecting with said chamber and a number of bores being provided in part of the casing.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the metal casing is formed as a rectangular trough, the open top of which is closed by a metal plate welded to the rim of said open top. Alternatively the metal plate and rim may be pressed together. A number of lozenge-shaped regions of the metal plate are each provided with a series of bores which communicate with the chamber defined by said casing, and a gas/air mix pipe extends through the base of the trough into the central region of the chamber. Thus there is never any possibility of the fabric of the burner chamber deteriorating as in the above prior art construction. For realism a ceramic plaque moulded with corresponding lozenge-shaped apertures and with the shapes of simulated solid fuel elements may be mounted on said metal plate, the flames from the burner extending through said lozenge-shaped apertures to embrace the simulated solid fuel ele-

ments. To accurately locate the ceramic plaque of said metal plate so that the lozenge-shaped regions are directly beneath the lozenge-shaped apertures in the plaque, the metal plate is then preferably provided with locating means in the form of a pair of recesses into which correctly positioned depending projections on the plaque, can engage. Alternatively upwardly extending projections may be provided on the metal plate and recesses in the plaque.

To provide for an even distribution of the gas/air mix throughout the said chamber and thus an even distribution to the gas/air mix bores, one or more baffles can be provided within the chamber to deflect the path of gas/air mix issuing from the gas/air mix supply pipe. In one alternative embodiment of the present invention a single rectangular baffle is located on the chamber above the open end of the gas/air mix supply pipe. Gas/air mix flow is thus divided by the baffle and passes around each side edge of the baffle to, for example, a rectangular region of gas/air mix bores provided adjacent to said baffle side edges.

In a solid fuel effect gas fire it is usual to provide three gas burners across the width of the fuel bed. Whilst three separate burners constructed according to the present invention may be installed in a fire, it is envisaged that the three burners may be integrally formed together. With this latter construction the three troughs for the three burners are pressed out of a single sheet of metal and the corresponding three metal plates are also formed from a single sheet of metal, each metal plate region having its required series of gas/air mix bores. The moulded metal sheets are then welded or peened together to form the integral three burner assembly, gas/air mix supply pipes feeding each burner chamber through the base of each trough.

To add further realism to the solid fuel effect burner of the present invention, a branch pipe leads off from the neat gas supply to the gas/air mix supply pipe of the burner, to open at a position adjacent to the specific bore regions of the said metal plate. This branch pipe supply of neat gas provides for the wispy flames seen in a real solid fuel fire. Preferably the branch pipe is Y-shaped at its outlet and to provide two outlets i.e. to provide two wispy flames - added realism.

In the integral three burner assembly described hereinabove half of a branch pipe for each burner can be integrally formed in both sheets of metal whilst pressing the metal sheet regions and said troughs; the respective branch pipes being completely formed when said sheets of metal are se-

cured together. Preferably these branch pipes open on each side of the burners.

Preferably the individual burners and the three burner assembly described hereabove are designed so as to lie under approximately only the front half of the usually inclined simulated solid fuel bed. In this way the burner flames are produced in the front half of the fire and are drawn to the rear of the fire by the fire draught, the flames engulfing the simulated solid fuel elements to the rear of the fuel bed in the same manner as a real fire.

The simulated fuel bed may lie directly on the metal plates of said burners so as to not block any of said bores. Alternatively the simulated fuel bed may be supported in the fire at a location spaced from, though above, said burners.

The present invention will now be further described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a part of a preferred embodiment of burner constructed according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the burner of Fig. 1 when completed;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the burner of Fig. 2 supporting a ceramic plaque;

Fig. 4 is an exploded view of a burner assembly constructed according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a front view of a fire incorporating burners constructed according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of part of another embodiment of burner constructed according to the present invention; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the burner of Fig. 6 when completed.

A preferred embodiment of a burner 1 constructed according to the present invention is illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings. The burner 1 basically comprises a generally rectangular trough 3 pressed out of a sheet of metal, the trough 3 having a wide rim 5 and a gas/air mix supply pipe 7 projecting sealingly through the base 9 of the trough 3, into the centre region of the trough 3. As seen in Fig. 2 a generally rectangular metal sheet 11 is welded sealingly to the trough rim 5, four lozenge-shaped regions 13 being formed in said metal sheet 11, each with a multiplicity of gas/air mix burner bores 15. Alternatively the said metal sheet 11 can be otherwise sealingly secured to the rim 5 and any number of lozenge-shaped burner bore regions, or other burner bore region configurations, can be substituted.

When installed in a gas fire a ceramic plaque 17 is located on top of the metal sheet 11. the ceramic plaque 17 is moulded with a number of

simulated solid fuel elements 19 on its upper surface and with a number of lozenge-shaped apertures 21 corresponding to the lozenge-shaped burner bore regions 13 in the metal sheet 11. To easily and accurately locate the ceramic plaque 17 on the metal sheet 11 two depressions 23 are provided on the metal sheet 11 and two depending projections (not shown) formed on the ceramic plaque 17 locate in these depressions 23 to locate the apertures 21 over the burner bore regions 13.

To add further realism to the above described burner in an installation, a T-connector 25 is provided on the neat gas supply line 27, the connector feeding gas to the gas/air mix supply pipe 7 and to a branch pipe 29 which opens adjacent to the side of the ceramic plaque 17 to allow neat gas to burn and produce the wispy flames evident in a real solid fuel fire.

Whilst individual gas burners 1 as described hereabove can be used side by side in a gas fire, an integrally formed gas burner assembly 30 as illustrated in Fig. 4 can be substituted. This gas burner assembly 30, as illustrated, comprises three burners according to the present invention. The burner assembly 30 is manufactured in two parts. One part is pressed from a single sheet of metal 31 to form the integrally interconnected troughs 3 and the lower half of the branch pipes 29, whilst the other part also pressed from a single sheet of metal 33, forms the said metal sheet regions for each burner with the upper half of the branch pipes 29. The burner assembly 30 is completed by sealingly welding the two pressed sheets together or otherwise sealing the said sheets together and by sealingly securing a gas/air mix supply pipe 7 in a hole in the base of each trough 3. In use the neat gas is fed to the branch pipes 29 via common ports 35.

The individual burners 1 or the burner assembly 30 are installed in a solid fuel effect fire as illustrated in Fig. 5, so as to lie under the front half of the simulated solid fuel bed 37. In this way the burner flames as well as the neat gas flames from the branch pipe(s) 29, are produced in the front region of the simulated fuel bed 37 and are drawn rearwardly by the draught of the fire to engulf the simulated solid fuel elements to the rear of the bed, in a similar manner to a real solid fuel fire.

Another embodiment of burner constructed according to the present invention is illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7 of the accompanying drawings, and the reference numerals used in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 will be used in Figs. 6 and 7 to identify equivalent parts. The burner 1 of Figs. 6 and 7 comprises a generally rectangular trough 3 pressed out of sheet metal, the trough 3 having a wide rim 5 and a gas/air mix supply pipe 7 projecting sealingly through the base of the trough. As seen in Fig. 6,

the main difference from the embodiment of Figs. 1 to 3, lies in the provision of a rectangular baffle plate 39 which rests on the wide rim 5 and has two elongate apertures 41 formed in a generally square recessed central section 43 of the baffle plate 39. In use, gas/air mix issuing from the pipe 7 into the chamber defined by the trough beneath the baffle plate 39, is divided by the baffle plate 39 so that substantially equal portions of the gas/air mix flow passes through such aperture, and is thus fed to a region 13 of gas/air mix bores 15 in a metal sheet 11 which is secured over the baffle plate 39 by the edges 45 of the rim 5 being peened-over. Further, to enhance the mixing of air and gas in the supply pipe 7 by measuring the speed and turbulence of flow, a venturi 47 is formed in the wall of pipe 7. Also to aid realism a Y-shaped outlet adaptor 49 is secured on the outlet of branch pipe 29 so that two wispy flames are thus formed, whilst simulated solid fuel elements (not shown) can be accurately positioned acutally on the metal sheet 11 securing the locating means 23, it is preferred if such fuel elements are supported by suitable means e.g. the sides and rear of the fire itself, spaced above the burner 1 and branch pipe 29 so that the flames lick around said simulated fuel elements.

The present invention thus provides a simple gas burner which will have a longer service free life as compared to similar prior art burners

Claims

1. A gas burner for a solid fuel effect gas fire, the burner comprising a gas/air mix chamber, a gas/air mix supply pipe (7) connecting with said chamber and a number of bores (15) extending through a region of a wall of the chamber, characterised in that an integrally formed metal casing (3,11) defines said gas/air mix chamber.

2. A gas burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal casing is formed as a trough (3) with an open top, said open top being closed by a metal plate (11) which is secured to the rim (5) of the open top.

3. A gas burner as claimed in claim 2, wherein said bores (15) are provided in said metal plate (11) and the gas/air mix supply pipe (7) extends through part of the trough (3).

4. A gas burner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bores (15) are provided in specific spaced apart regions (13) of said metal plate (11).

5. A gas burner as claimed in claim 3, wherein the gas/air mix supply pipe (7) extends through the part of the trough (3) forming the base (9) of the chamber, said pipe (7) extending into the central region of said chamber.

6. A gas burner as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in combination with a neat gas supply pipe (27) which feeds said gas/air mix supply pipe (7) a branch pipe (29) leading off from the neat gas supply pipe (27) and opening adjacent to the said bores (15) in said metal plate (11).

7. A gas burner as claimed in claim 2, in combination with a number of like burners, said burners being formed integrally together, with the troughs (3) of said burners (1) formed out of a single sheet of metal (31) and the corresponding said metal plates also formed out of a single sheet of metal (33), being secured together to form said integral burner combination (30).

8. A gas burner as claimed in claim 7, wherein a branch pipe (29) for feeding neat gas to regions adjacent said bores (13) in the common metal plate (33) for the integral burner combination (30), is formed partly in such of said sheets of metal (31, 33) during manufacture, the branch pipe (29) being completed when said sheets of metal (31, 33) are secured together to form the integral burner combination (30).

9. A gas burner as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein simulated solid fuel elements (17, 19) are located above said metal plate (11) of the burner (1) so as to not block any of said bores (15).

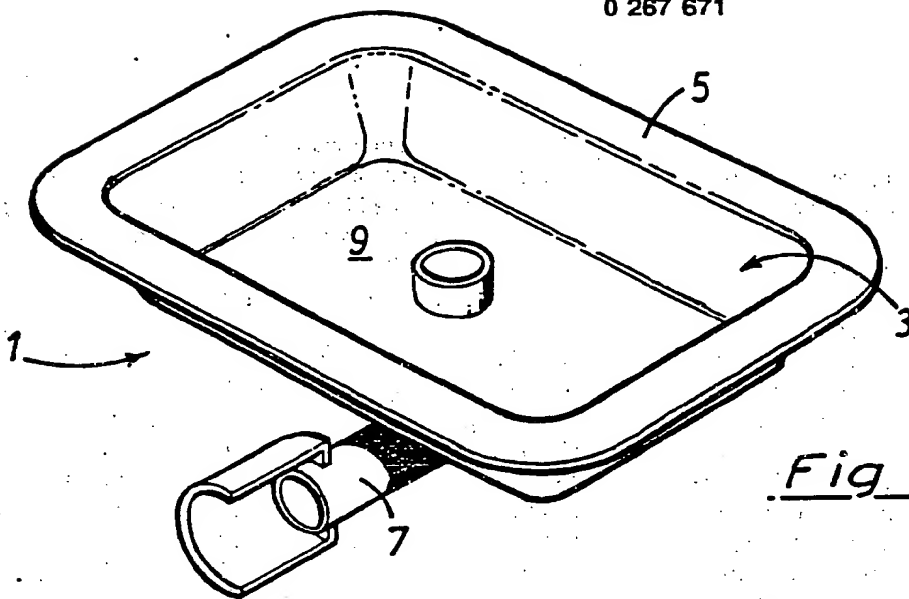
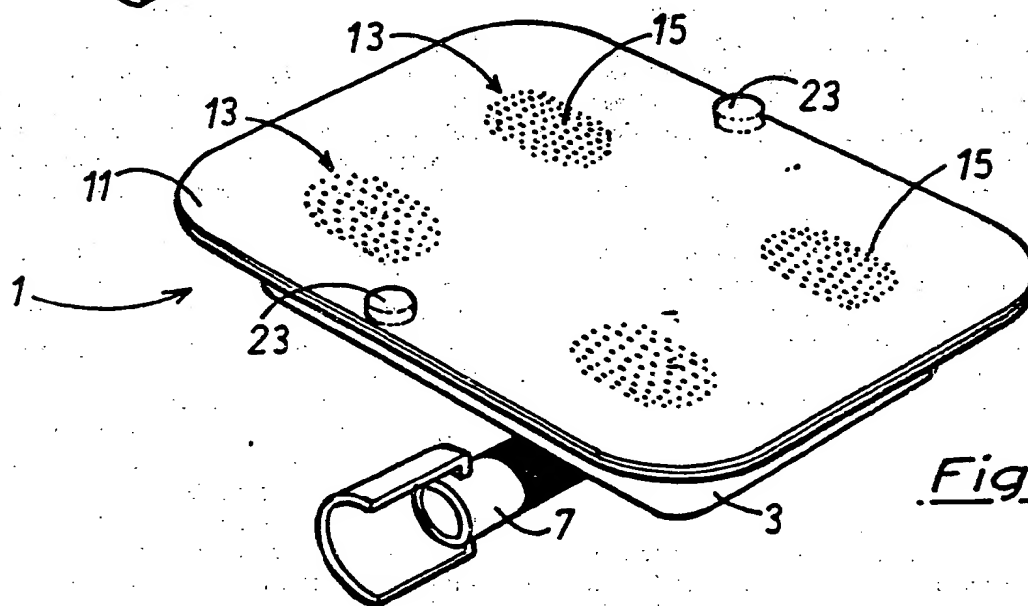
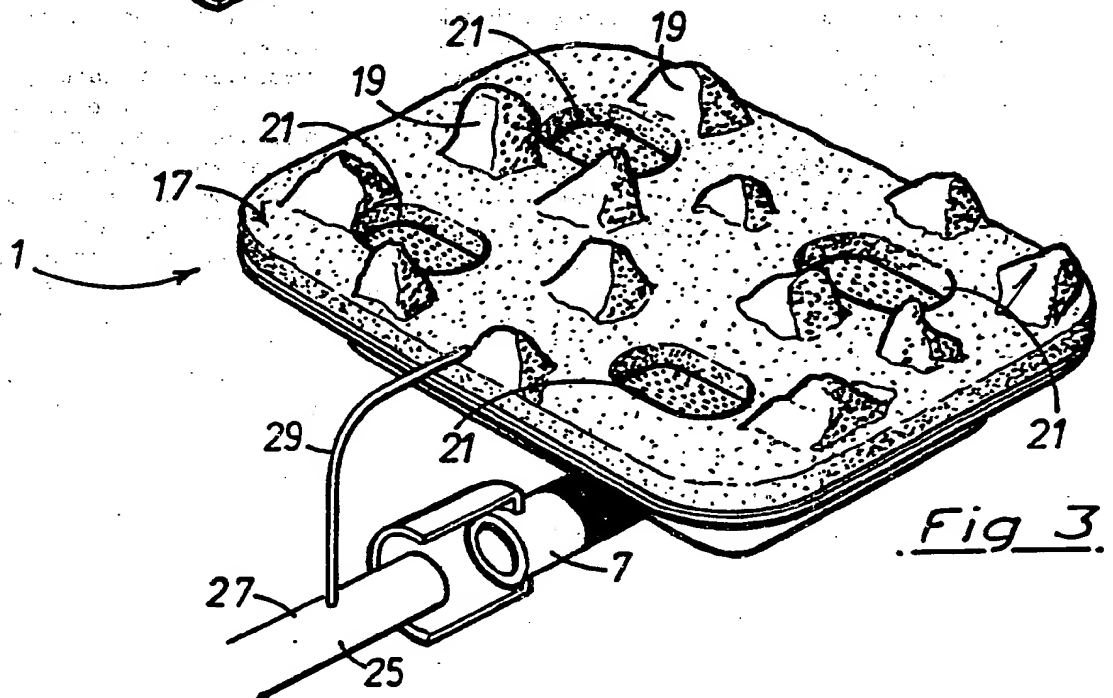
10. A gas burner as claimed in claim 9, wherein simulated solid fuel element (17, 19) is mounted on said metal plate (11) with interengaging locating means (23) being provided on the burner (1) and said fuel element (17, 19).

11. A gas burner as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein said simulated solid fuel elements (17,19) are formed as an integral ceramic plaque (17) with cutaway regions (21) provided to expose said bores (15) on the burner (1).

12. A gas burner as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a baffle plate (39) is located within said chamber to, in use, divide the gas/air mix issuing from the gas/air mix supply pipe (7) into the chamber.

13. A gas fire incorporating a number of bores as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said burners (1) occupy approximately the front half of a simulated solid fuel bed.

14. A gas fire as claimed in claim 13, wherein said fuel bed is inclined with simulated solid fuel elements (37) located to the rear of said burners.

Fig. 1Fig. 2Fig. 3

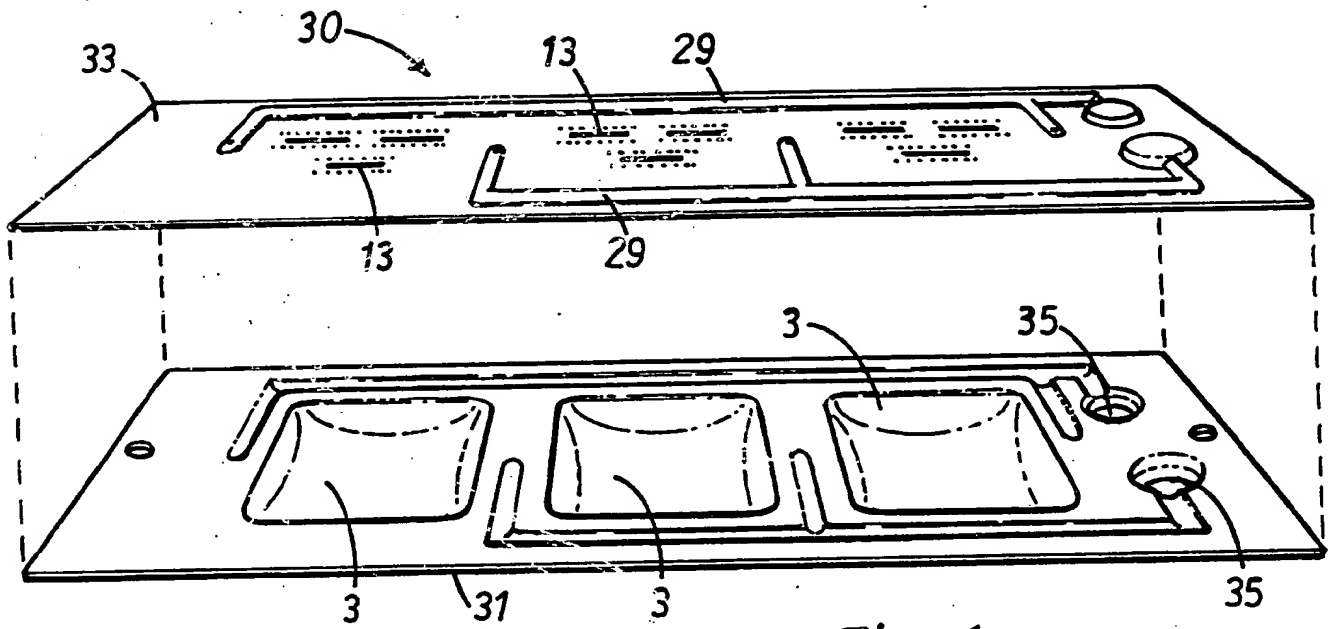


Fig 4.

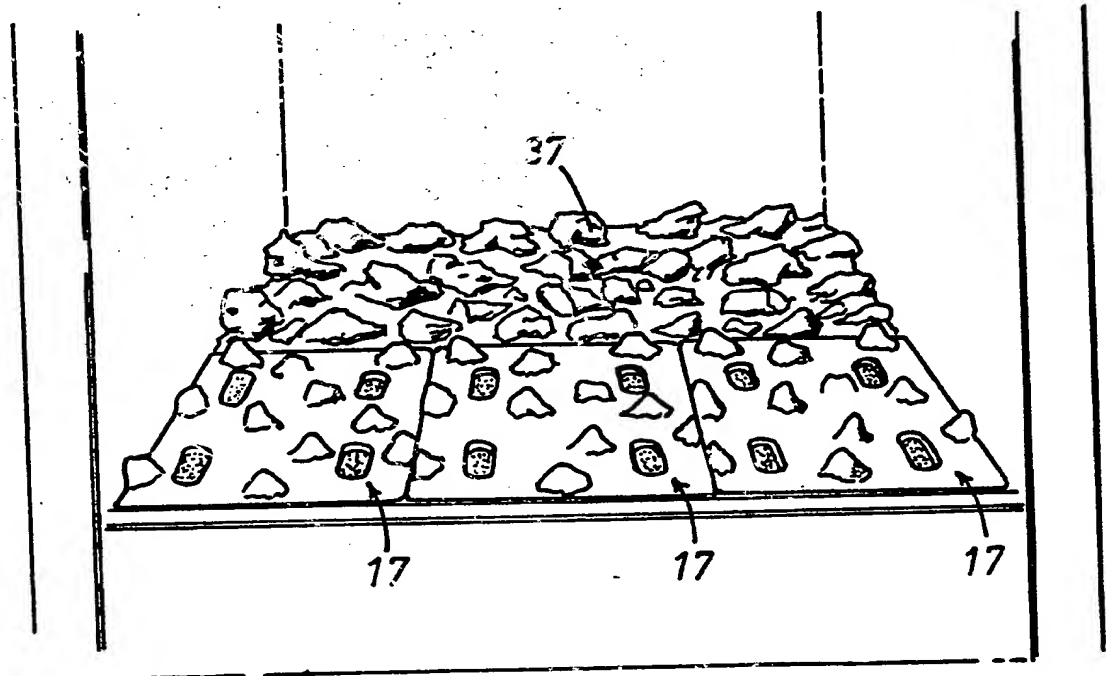
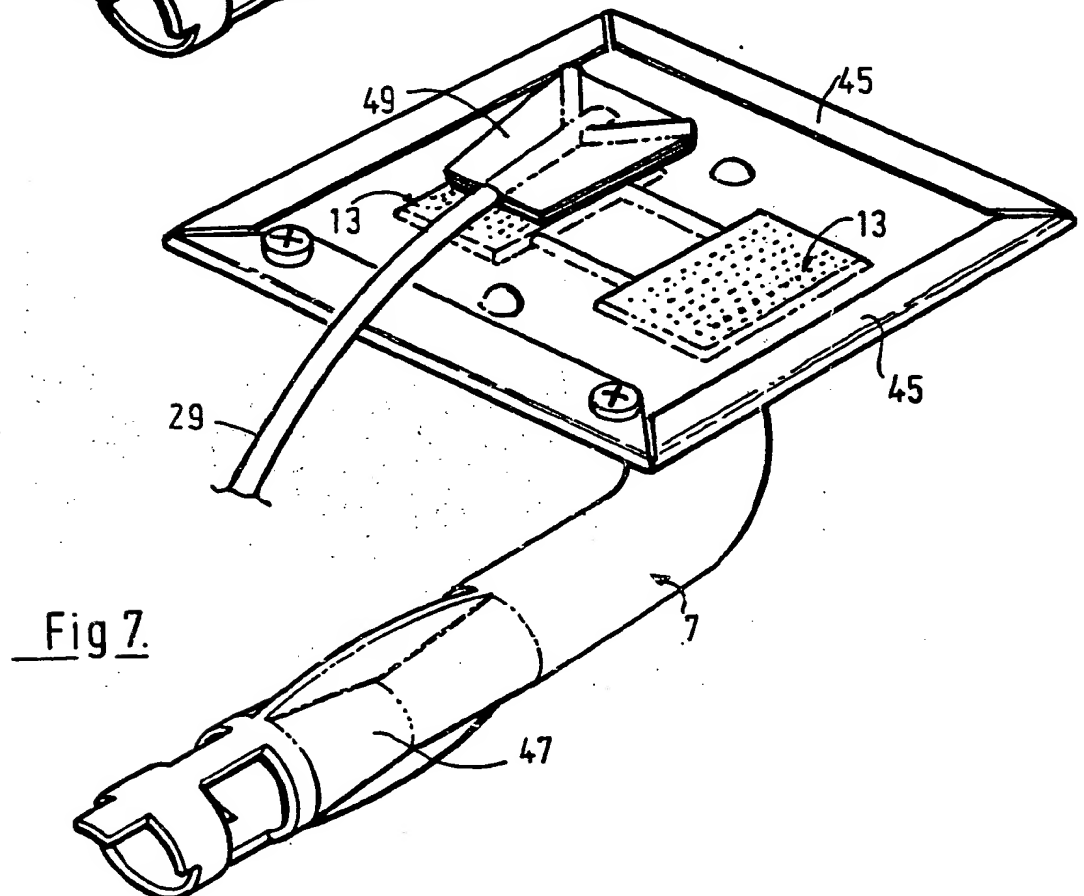
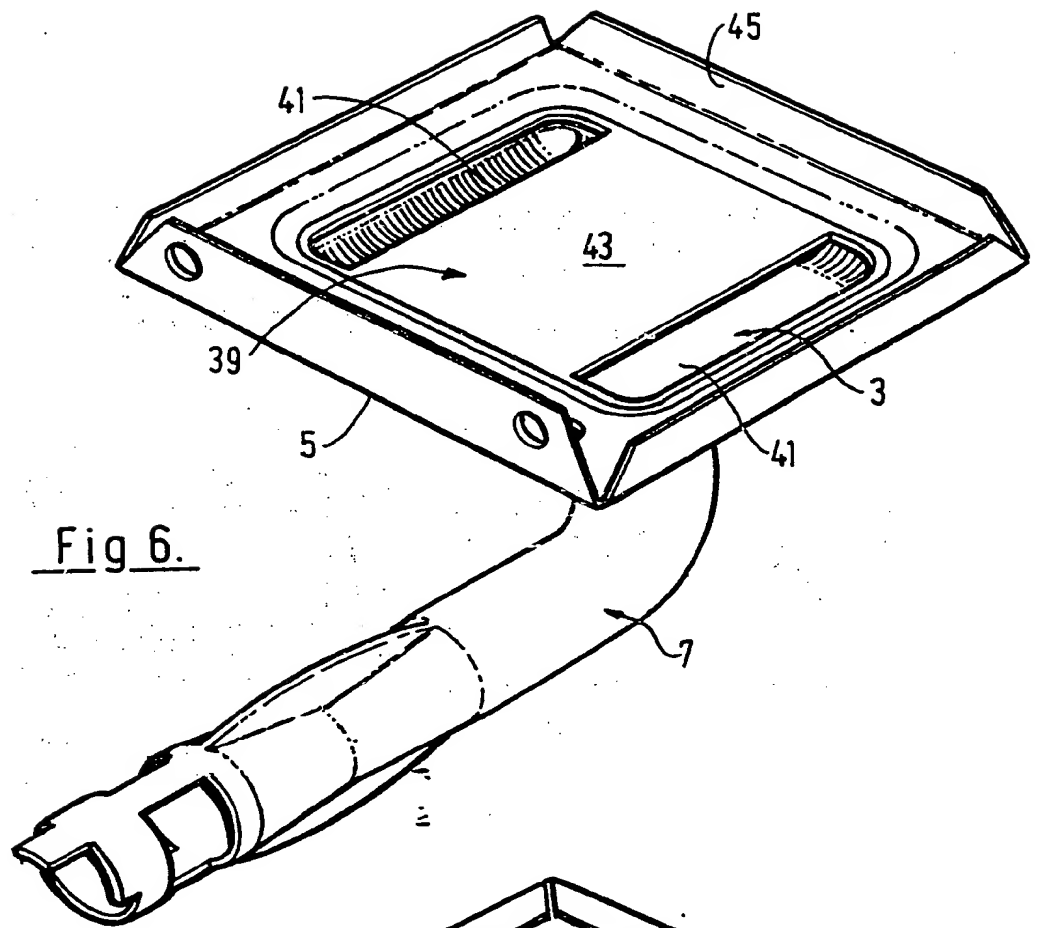


Fig 5.





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 87307331.6

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	GB - A - 2 040 440 (VALOR HEATING) * Totality *	1-3,7, 9,13, 14.	F 23 D 14/12 F 24 C 3/04
Y	GB - A - 2 160 642 (TAYLOR & PORTWAY) * Page 2, lines 34-37; fig. 1,3 *	1-3,7, 9,13, 14	
A	GB - A - 2 068 106 (VALOR NEW-HOME) * Fig. 6 *	1,6	
A	DE - A1 - 2 710 258 (FOSECO INTERNATIONAL) * Fig. 1 *	1,2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			F 23 D 14/00 F 24 C 3/00 F 24 C 15/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 26-02-1988	Examiner TSCHÖLLITSCH
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	